

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

***This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:***

1. (Currently amended) A recording medium discharge mechanism positioned between an original capturing portion arranged in a device upper portion and a feeding portion arranged in a device lower portion of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium placement surface being a bottom surface of a discharge space, the discharge space having an open portion laterally to a downstream side in a recording medium discharge direction and receiving the recording medium that has undergone image formation in an image-forming portion of the image forming apparatus,

wherein a discharge direction length of the recording medium placement surface is shorter than a length of a paper cassette of the feeding portion arranged to hold one or more types of recording media used in the image forming apparatus;

a biasing member; and

a side wall member being provided at the downstream end portion in the recording medium discharge direction of the recording medium placement surface,

wherein the side wall member is rotatably supported to rotate around a rotational axle extending in a horizontal direction perpendicular to the

recording medium discharge direction, and is arranged to be capable of moving  
between an upright state that closes the open portion of the downstream side  
in the recording medium discharge direction in the discharge space and a laid  
flat state in which the placement surface for placing a discharged recording  
medium is extended toward the downstream side in the recording medium  
discharge direction, and

wherein the side wall member is arranged to receive a biasing force ~~to the~~  
~~upright state~~ by the biasing member so as to rotate from the laid flat state to  
the upright state, and

wherein the side wall member is configured to move from the upright  
state to the laid flat state against the biasing force by the biasing member only  
upon receiving an external force from the recording medium having a discharge  
speed greater than a predetermined speed or having a hardness greater than a  
predetermined hardness when the recording medium has been discharged to  
the discharge space in the upright state of the side wall member that closes the  
open position, and the side wall member is also configured to move to the  
upright state with a lower end surface of the side wall member abutting on the  
recording medium placement surface due to the biasing force by the biasing  
member when the recording medium placed on the recording medium  
placement surface has been removed in the laid flat state of the side wall  
member.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1, which is configured such that, when the discharge direction length of the recording medium placement surface of the discharge space is given as L1, the length of the paper cassette of the feeding portion arranged to hold one or more types of recording media used in the image forming apparatus is given as L2, and an extension length dimension toward a downstream side in the recording medium discharge direction when the side wall member has been put into the laid flat state is given as L3,

$$L3 \leq L2 - L1.$$

6. (Previously presented) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the side wall member is structured using a transparent member or a semitransparent member.

7. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus comprising the recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1, an original capturing portion arranged at an upper portion of the recording medium discharge mechanism, and a feeding portion arranged at a lower portion of the recording medium discharge mechanism.

Claims 8-16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the discharge space is formed interior to an image forming apparatus formed by the original capturing portion and the feeding portion.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the discharge space is separate from an original discharge space of the original capturing portion into which originally scanned documents are discharged after being scanned.

Claims 20-23 (Canceled)